



## BML Livelihoods Sector Working Groups Meeting - Minutes

BML Livelihoods WG Minutes of Meeting			
<b>Name</b>	Livelihoods WG / Coordination Meeting	<b>Meeting Date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Teams	<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00 am till 11:00 am
<b>Chairperson</b>	Marianne Al Haibe/ UNDP Amir Mounif / MoSA	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	1 h
<b>Minutes Prepared By</b>	Marianne Al Haibe / UNDP		
<b>Participants</b> <b>19 Organizations</b>	Amir Mounif, <b>MoSA</b> - Tiffany Chelala, <b>DOT</b> Lebanon - Beatrice El Khoury, <b>Borderless</b> - Joseph Massaad, <b>ShareQ</b> - Ola Hariri, <b>Lebanese Micro Finance Association</b> - Delilah Farshoukh, <b>CESVI</b> - Nagham Abdallah, Al <b>Majmouaa</b> - Safaa Said, <b>ACA</b> – Lama Abdallah, ACA - Yousra Taleb, <b>UNDP</b> - Vartkes Keutelian, <b>Makhzoumi</b> Foundation - Sandra Debs, <b>Dorcas</b> Tabitha - Rawad Zakhour, <b>UNICEF</b> - Hanan AlKassem, <b>SIF</b> - Michella Gabriele, <b>Life Project for Youth</b> - Karim Jaroudi, <b>IOM</b> - Malak Safa, <b>UNDP/UN-HABITAT</b> - Omar Saade, <b>SB Overseas</b> - Ali Hallak, ACA - Hoda Khatoun, <b>Amel Association</b> - Mahmoud, ACA – Layla El Hage, <b>Jafra</b> Foundation.		
<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>- Presentation by LP4Y on their Livelihoods interventions</li> <li>- Q2 Findings</li> <li>- Thematic discussion on challenges facing MSMEs and ways forward</li> <li>- Field Updates</li> <li>- AOB</li> </ul>		

### Summary of Discussion Points

<b>I.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction:</b>
	The meeting started with a round of introductions for all attending partners.
<b>II.</b>	<b>LP4Y – Livelihoods Interventions in BML</b>
	Refer to Annex 1
<b>III.</b>	<b>Q2 Findings</b>
	Refer to Annex 2.
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Thematic discussion on challenges facing MSMEs and ways forward</b>

	<p>As reported by the participating partners, MSMEs are facing the below-mentioned <b>challenges</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electricity shortages cause challenges in the operations of MSMEs as well as negatively affect the quality of products and services.</li> <li>- High cost of raw materials causing the increase in prices in the market and the need to substitute material with lower quality items causing the lower quality of products and services.</li> <li>- Fluctuation of prices and currency rates leading to not knowing how to set prices for their products and services.</li> <li>- Different challenges have caused an increase in prices, which is in its turn decreasing sales.</li> <li>- Increase in fuel prices affecting the cost of products and services.</li> <li>- Challenges in cash transfers causing challenges in program implementation.</li> <li>- Increase in rental fees and generator costs, which in its turn is increasing the overhead fees on the MSME causing an increase in its end pricing.</li> <li>- Low financial and marketing skills.</li> <li>- Cash-only economy.</li> <li>- Instable economic, political, and security situations causing the MSMEs to face constant vulnerabilities.</li> </ul> <p>In regard to the <b>mitigations and ways forward</b>, partner organizations have reported some actions that they have put in place such as providing solar equipment to MSMEs such as solar panels and inverters, providing raw materials for MSMEs to sustain their work, providing cash assistance, supporting more home-based businesses, as well as supporting MSMEs by providing financial management training.</p>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Field Updates:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SIF:</b> In the preparation phase for a project funded by AFD. They will be working with local partners in BML (Shatila, Burj Brajneeh, Nabaa) and North: Basma and Zeitouna and Woman Program Association. Target: Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese young women and girls between the age of 18 and 25. Activity: vocational training, basic literacy and numeracy, and English skills; will then connect participants to job placement.</li> <li>- <b>Cesvi:</b> Started implementing a cash-for-work project in Barja (Target 130 persons) and Sibline (Target 100 persons). 50% Lebanese and 50% non-Lebanese and at least 20% women. Coordinating with MoSA. Daily wages are in Lebanese pounds 230,000 per day for unskilled and 265 thousand for skilled including transportation. The activities are street cleaning, trimming and planting trees, and maintaining proper gardens.</li> <li>- <b>Borderless:</b> Starting a new women empowerment project. Activities: vocational training (nails, makeup, and Makram tailoring) in addition to soft skills training such as financial reporting, marketing, and civil rights.</li> </ul>

	Following the vocational training, program participants receive kits to be able to start their businesses from home.
<b>VI.</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>GiHA Training 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September and Training 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.</b></li> <li>- <b>Activity Info reporting and Service Mapping updates.</b></li> <li>- <b>Next BML LH WG will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 from 10:00 am till 11:00 am.</b></li> </ul>